

THE SWEETEST GIRL IN DIXIE

CAST

COLONEL HOWARD..... CHARACTER

AUNT CAROLINE ..... BLACK MAMMY

BABBY ..... LEAD

HOWARD EMERY ..... LEAD

MATTHEW MARTIN..... GENTLE HEAVY.

PROPS

Glass of buttermilk  
Table two chairs  
~~Settee~~  
Pillow slip  
Watch  
Check

SETTING

C. D. FANCY    D.   R AND L.

THE SWEETEST GIRL IN DIXIE

COLONEL

(IS DISCOVERED ASLEEP IN CHAIR. CAROLINE IS HUMMING AROUND AND DOING THE HOUSE WORK)

CAROLINE

(LOOKS OUT WINDOW) Good lawd! Hap my time!

COLONEL

(AWAKENS) What's the matter, Ca'oline, what's the matter?

CAROLINE

I done seed a black cat right in front of me while I was looking out.

COLONEL

Ca'oline, I've told you about being superstitious.

CAROLINE

Ah just can't help it, Massa Cunnel. Whenever I sees a black cat ah knows they is goin' to be trouble. Didn't a black cat run right in front of you the day yo' all mortgaged this place to that Mr. Matthew Martin.

COLONEL

No you did, Ca'oline---that mortgage has hung over this old place like a gloomy cloud of trouble.

CAROLINE

That old Matthew Martin aint no good no how. He's a northerner, and I don't like Northerners---

COLONEL

Why, Caroline, you like young Howard Emery who has been visiting us for the last two weeks and he's a Northerner.

CAROLINE

Yes, but he am different, jest seems like some how.

COLONEL

Well, we must treat Matthew Martin as a gentleman even though we may not like him so well.

CAROLINE

Gentlemans de debbil I hope he comes around heah. I'll steal de gold teeth right out of his haid, so I will.

COLONEL

Why, Ca'oline, what makes you speak of being a thief like that? Don't you know it isn't right to steal? Ca'oline, you should listen to that still small voice called Conscience when you are going to commit thievery.

CAROLINE

Small voice called conscience.

CAROLINE

Yes, your conscience tells you when you are doing something wrong, and if you heed it, you will never get in trouble. Haven't you ever started to do som thing, Caroline, and heard a little voice in side you saying, "Don't do it?"



CAROLINE

Yessa Yessa. Ah did. Ah heard dat voice once when I was goin' to swipe a pair of shoes. Ah was in a shoe store and dere settin' before me was de sweetest pair of three dollar shoes yo' ever done laid yo' eyes on. Ah was just about to reach down and grab 'em when dat voice inside ob me said "Don't do it! Don't do it!"

COLONEL

Fine! And so you didn't take the three dollar pair of shoes?

CAROLINE

No sah! Ah don' reached up and got me a seben dollar pair.

COLONEL

Ca'oline! Ca'oline! But here comes Mr. Matthew Martin now. Better clear out, Caroline.

CAROLINE

Yessa---cause ah all don't like dat man and ah might forget and say somep'n what would cause a rumpus! (EXITS L.)

MATTHEW MARTIN

(ENTERS C.) Good afternoon, Col. Howard.

COLONEL

Good evening, Mr. Martin. Just sit right down and make yourself at home.

MARTIN

I won't stay long, Colonel. The fact is I came on business, and I will be to the point. I am in love with your daughter, Barbara. Now if you will consent to our marriage I will consider the mortgage on I hold on this place settled, and you won't owe me a dollar.

COLONEL

Hold on right there, Mr. Martin. The mortgage on this heah place is mine and your business, and Babby's marriage to your is her business, so don't get the two of them ixed mixed up please.

MARTIN

I meant no offense. I only want to pay my respects to your daughter.

BABBY

(LAUGHS OFF STAGE C. WITH HOWARD AND ENTERS C.) Oh, Daddy, I beat him, and I let him have the start too.. (BUS.) Good evening Mr. Martin.

COLONEL

Mr. Martin, allow me to introduce our cousin from the North, Mr. Howard Emery.

HOWARD

I'm glad to meet you, Mr. Martin. (SHAKES HANDS)

MATTHEW

Same to you. I'm glad to know you as you are a Northerner like myself. Well, I must be going. I'll call again. It is strange that you have been visiting the Colonel for two weeks and I have never met you before, but I will see you again. Good afternoon. (EXITS GIVING HOWARD A RATHER JEALOUS QUESTIONING LOOK)

COLONEL

Well, I must be going. You two will excuse me also. (EXITS L.)

BABBY

Poor daddy. I'll bet he was bored to death trying to entertain Mr. Martin. You know Mr. Martin is just not quite Daddy's kind of people!

HOWARD

You know I don't think I ever saw a father and daughter quite so devoted before.

BABBY

Well, you see, Daddy and I haven't much else in the world except each other. Daddy was quite an old bachelor when he married my mother and he was very fond of her, but she only lived two years after they were married, so you can't blame him very much for being so foolish about me.

HOWARD

But, Babby! I don't think it's right that you should give all your love to your father.

CAROLINE

(ENTERS L. QUICKLY) Massa Howard, I done got telegraph fo ' you. (PAUSE WAITS WHILE HE READS IT) I hope dere aint nobody dead.

HOWARD

(READING) The devil!

CAROLINE

I sho' is glad he's dade!

HOWARD

Confound it! I've got to go home at once. I came here two weeks ago to stay two days and I am here yet, and everyday since I have been here I have said to myself, well I must go home tomorrow. I can't put it off any longer though, but I'll come back again--that is, if I'm invited.

BABBY

You know you are always welcome whenever you choose to come, but I'm going upstairs for a little while, and I'll have to ask you to excuse me. (EXITS R.)

HOWARD

Well, don't be too long. I haven't any time to waste. Gee! What a wonderful girl she is. Say, Aunt Caroline, were you ever in love head over heels with a pair of blue eyes and a dimple?

CAROLINE

Suh!

HOWARD

Did you ever feel like the world was full of sunshine and the birds were singing everywhere and you were walking on soft white clouds. That's the way I feel.

CAROLINE

Does yo'? Man, yo' all better take a dose of Pluto den--maybe yo' got a tech of the malaria.



HOWARD  
Aunt Caroline, you're a case.

CAROLINE  
No sah---you' flatters me by about nine bottles. But if yo' all is goin' to marry Babby yo' better speak up, cause in dis day an age yo never can tell when yo's likely to find another mule in yo' stall.

HOWARD  
Thanks, Caroline, I'll take your advice. (EXIT C.)

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NUMBER ONE  
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CAROLINE  
(GOES TO DOOR C.) Hef my time dere comes dat old Matthew Martin again. I suppose he wants to peticate the Colonel about dat mortgage.

MATTHEW  
(ENTERS C.) ~~Look look look look look~~ Nigger, go tell the Colonel that I am here.

CAROLINE  
Who yo' all callin' a niggah, Mister?

MATTHEW  
I called you a nigger you black coon.

CAROLINE  
Dat's all right, Mister Martin, ah may be black on de outside, but on de inside I'm white, and dats a whole hell of a lot more den I can say fo' yo'.

MATTHEW  
Why you I'll--- (RAISES HAND TO STRIKE)

CAROLINE  
(SQUARING OFF AT HIM) Look out now! Ah 'll forget maself and jest plum let yo' have wid dis sopp bone. And if I done tells de cunnel you talked to me like dat, he'll do it fo' me.

MATTHEW  
You have no respect for a white man.

CAROLINE  
Yo's wrong, Mr. Martin. Dis niggah comes from old virginny and we respects white folks, but po' whitetrash nothin' doin'!

MATTHEW  
I'll not waste words with you. Tell the Colonel I want to see him, and by the way you might bring me a drink I'm thirsty.

CAROLINE  
Yes sah! ,How about a little carbolic acid?

MATTHEW  
Bring me a glass of butter-milk!

CAROLINE  
All right, I'll bring you a glass of milk, and you can butter it your self. (EXITS L.)

MATTHEW

I'll make that coon sorry for what she has done.

COLONEL

(ENTERS L.) Well, good evening, Mr. Martin, did you want to see me?

MATTHEW

Colonel Heward, I came over here this afternoon to ask your daughter to become my wife. Have I your sanction?

COLONEL

Well, Mr. Martin, my daughter, Babby can marry whomever she wants to and if you are her choice why it is all right with me, but I tell you frankly I do not believe she will have you. Here comes Babby now. Babby, you (BABBY ENTERS R.) Babby, you entertain Mr. Martin, I have some work to do. (EXITS C.)

BABBY

Oh don't go, Daddy---

MATTHEW

It's quite all right, Miss Barbara, I want to talk to you. Won't you sit down? (SEATS HER) You know I have admired you for a long time, and I would like to make you my wife. I---

CAROLINE

(ENTERS AND HANDS HIM GLASS OF MILK) Here's yo' milk!

MATTHEW

Oh! (DRINKS MILK WIPES LIPS) Really very delicious, Caroline! How much do I owe you? (MONEY IN HAND)

CAROLINE

Oh dat's all right---we gives it to hogs! (EXITS L.)

BABBY

(TURNS AWAY AND SMILES) You mustn't mind her, Mr. Martin.

MATTHEW

She is too impudent. But, Miss Barbara, do you know that I have your father's permission to ask you to become my wife?

BABBY

I am very sorry, Mr. Martin, but I---

MATTHEW

Miss Barbara, did your father ever tell you about the mortgage on this place? Of course not. Twenty years ago, I loaned your father five thousand dollars and took a mortgage on this place, not only the house the grounds but everything it contained. He lost money on cotton and hasn't been able to even pay me the interest. Now if you will consent to become my wife, I will hand over that mortgage to you, and also settle fifty thousand dollars upon you. Now I realize that you do not love me, but that will come in time, and besides it is your father's wish.

BABBY

Did Daddy say that?

MATTHEW

Well---not exactly, but I know that it will make him very happy to



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to see you my wife, and remember that he is pretty old to begin life anew and begin it penniless. Now just give me your promise and every debt shall be paid, and you can remain right here in the old home.

BABBY

I care nothing for the money you have offered, Mr. Martin, and I tell you frankly that I would rather work in your factory than ever become your wife, but I love my father better than my life, and rather than cause him any misery in his old age, if you are willing to accept the sacrifice I will have to make in marrying you, then I am willing to make it.

MATTHEW

Then I have your promise--? (STARTS TO EMBRACE HER)

BABBY

Yes, but please go now. I--I want to be alone. (BURNS AWAY)

MATTHEW

very well then, good-bye until tomorrow. (EXITS C. D.)

HOWARD

(ENTERS R.) So he has gone at last, eh? Babby, I've got something to say to you before I go. You know I've been telling you about my sweetheart, and--

BABBY

Oh yes---what about your sweetheart, Howard? Do you think she will make you happy?

HOWARD

I know she will if she will only have me.

BABBY

Why, haven't you told her of your love?

HOWARD

I've been trying to tell her ever since I came down here but ever time I try to tell you, why---

BABBY

Try to tell me? Why you don't mean--

HOWARD

Yes, Babby, you are the only girl in the world for me.

BABBY

Don't, please, don't! I didn't know.

HOWARD

You mean that you care for someone else?

BABBY

No, not that, but I am engaged to Matthew Martin.

HOWARD

What! You are going to marry that old brute? Why the very thought of it is hideous!

BABBY

(SITS BY TABLE) I didn't know! (HEAD DOWN)

MATTHEW

(ENTERS C. D.) I beg your pardon. I just came back for my cane. I hope I don't intrude?

HOWARD

No, it is I who am intruding, so I will leave you. (STARTS TOWARD STAIRS R.)

MATTHEW

Miss Babby told you of our approaching marriage? I hope you approve of the match.

HOWARD

Yes, I congratulate you, Mr. Martin---I congratulate you both. Good-bye, Miss Babby, and I wish you all the luck in the world. (EXITS R.)

BABBY

Howard--(STARTS TO RISE THEN FALLS DOWN ON TABLE CRYING)

MATTHEW

Why, my dear Barbara--- (STARTS AS THOUGH TO PICK HER UP)

CAROLINE

(COMES BETWEEN BABBY AND MARTIN) Go way, whitetrash, an' leave dis chile to me. Come on, honey, wid yo' ole black mammy. (SUPPORTS BABBY INTO ROOM R. U.)

\*\*\*\*\* NUMBER TWO \*\*\*\*\*  
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CAROLINE

Well, Massa Howard done gone on back up North---Lordee I thought he was goin' to stay and marry Miss Babby, but I guess he couldn't get up enough nerve. (BABBY ENTERS R.) Lawsy, honey, don't look so down in de mouf. Am yo' grievin' cause Massa Howard am gone?

BABBY

No, and I must forget him, for I am going to be Matthew Martin's wife.

CAROLINE

What yo' talkin' about chile? I believe yo' done lost leave of yo' senses---must be a wave on yo' brain. What yo' goin' to marry dat old skinflint for?

BABBY

To pay off our debts. If I am not his wife by the first of October we will be turned into the streets, paupers.

CAROLINE

Does de cunnel know dis?

BABBY

No, and he never shall know that I am making the sacrifice for him Aunt Caroline, you have often told me how my mother when she was dying, placed me in your arms and said, "Take her, Caroline, and raise her the best you can, and teach her to be her father's comfort in his hour of trial"

CAROLINE

Yes, honey, dat's what she say, and I'se always done de bes' I could. But, de Cunnel has got to know what you am doin'.



BABBY

No, Aunt Caroline. Can't you see it's the only way? It would break daddy's heart to be buried in a paupers grave, and I forbid you to tell him why I am marrying Matthew Martin.

CAROLINE

But, Honey, does dat Massa Howard know about dis mortgage debt fo' he left fo' de North.

BABBY

Certainly not. We are not beggars even if we are paupers. No, Aunt Caroline, no one knows this but you and I, and I forbid you to ever speak of it again. (EXITS R.)

CAROLINE

Forbid---forbid--humph! Now she can just forbid all she wants to, but I'se gwine to speak my min' jes' de same. De idea of dat chile marryin' dat old scarecrow when she kin have her pick of 'em all.

COLONEL

(ENTERS C.) Aunt Caroline, what are you mumbling about?

CAROLINE

Ah's mumblin' cause Miss Babby says she is goin't marry dat ole man Matthew Martin to pay off de mortgage on dis place. She say if she don't marry him we all gwine to be turned out in de road.

COLONEL

What! He told her that?

CAROLINE

Yes suh! Dat's what de ole cooter done tole her. Dat's how he got her to promise to marry him.

COLONEL

Ca'oline go git my gun. I'll teach that white livered hound to keep his mouth shut.

CAROLINE

(LOOKS OUT C. D.) Here he comes now, Cunnel.

COLONEL

Who? Martin? Well, never mind about the gun, Ca'oline. I gain't shoot him in my own house, but I wish I had met him the road. I can't shoot him in the road either.

CAROLINE

Shoot in de road de debill, shoot him in de pants, shoot him in de pants! (ENTERS EXITS L.)

MATTHEW

(ENTERS C. D.) Good evening, Col. Howard. I suppose you are surprised to see me back here this afternoon? I suppose you know your daughter has promised to be my wife.

COLONEL

Yes, I know she has, but I also know that you threatened her with this mortgage before she gave you that promise, suh.

MATTHEW

You are mistaken, Col. Howard.

COLONEL  
You're a liar, suh! (SAME TONE)

MATTHEW  
Sir!

COLONEL  
You heard what I said. And this supposed engagement between you and my daughter is at an end. Do you understand that, suh?

MATTHEW  
I do not, and shall not consider our engagement broken until I hear it from her own lips.

COLONEL  
You'll hear it! (LOOKS AT HIM. PAUSES. X'S TO R. U.) Babby! Babby! (SHE ENTERS) Babby, if you ever promised to marry this man, I want you to break that promise right now.

BABBY  
But, Daddy, you don't understand.

COLONEL  
You don't love him, do you?

MATTHEW  
Colonel Howard, allow me to explain.

COLONEL  
Shut your mouth, suh. Answer me, do you love him?

BABBY  
No, Daddy.

COLONEL  
Then hold up your head, look the sneak square in the eye and tell him you won't have him.

BABBY  
Do you mean it, Daddy? (CAROLINE ENTERS L.)

COLONEL  
By the eternals I do mean it!

BABBY  
Mr. Martin, I want to break the engagement between us. I can never become your wife.

~~COLONEL~~ MATTHEW  
Very well then I hold a mortgage on this house and everything you possess. And that mortgage falls due tomorrow. Unless you've got the money to pay me, I'm going to turn you and your high toned daughter out into the street, do you understand that?

COLONEL  
Perfectly! But until tomorrow this is my house, and I must ask you to git out of it, and if I catch your measly sneakin' carcass on my premises again, I'll kkkk you off, do you hear me, kick you off!

CAROLINE  
Yes, and if yo' don't I will!



COLONEL

Well, Aunt Caroline, are you seeing that everything is in readiness to leave here today.

CAROLINE

Yessa, Massa Cunnel, ah's all ready to go.

COLONEL

There's a shack down by the river that Babby and I are going to live in. Now maybe I can't get you a job with a friend of mine, Caroline-

CAROLINE

Get me a job? Lawsy Mass Cunnel yo all gonna can me is yo'?

COLONEL

But, Caroline, Babby and I haven't got a thing. We are starting out on nothing.

CAROLINE

Dat's all right, Massa Cunnel. ah's been wid yo' all ma life and ah aint goin' to quit now.

COLONEL

All right then, Aunt Caroline. I--I guess I will take one last look around the old place before I must leave it forever. (EXITS R.)

CAROLINE

Po' Massa Cunnel. (MATTHEW ENTERS C.) Good Lord! Up jumped de debil.

MATTHEW

Is Miss Barbara at home?

CAROLINE

Yes sah, she am.

MATTHEW

Well, tell her that I want to speak to her on a matter of importance.

CAROLINE

I don't think she'll care to see you.

MATTHEW

I didn't ask your opinion. Tell your mistress that a gentleman wishes to see her. I haven't much time to waste. (LOOKS AT WATCH)

CAROLINE

No suh! I ain't never tole dat chile a lie yit, an' I aint goin' to begin now. (X'S R.) But I will tell her as how a pussion wants to see her. (EXITS R.)

MATTHEW

The impudent old wretch! I'll show them all if Babby refuses to marry me again.

COLONEL

(ENTERS C.) Well suh. I guess you are here to take possession.

MATTHEW

Oh not at all. I have called to say that we will let bygones be bygones if your daughter will still consent to be my wife---

COLONEL

Hold on there, Martin. I never took you for a fool, although I've had my suspicions that you were a damn scoundrel, suh. I want to tell you for the last time that you couldn't marry my daughter if you had every dollar in the world. There are some things that we Southerners value higher than money, and one of them is a good name, suh.

MATTHEW

You don't like me, Col. Howard, because I am a Northerner.

COLONEL

Not a bit of it, suh. I fought the Northern soldiers for four years, and I never met a braver, more loyal set of men in my life, but your father wasn't among them. He paid a man to come down here and do his fighting. Now I wouldn't a held this agin' you, Martin, if you had proven yourself a gentleman, but your actions all the way through have gone to prove that you belong to the same breed of pups!

CAROLINE

(ENTERS R.) Miss Babby sez she will be down in a minute. (EXITS L<sup>2</sup>)

COLONEL

Very Caroline, we must get ready to leave the old place at once. Get packed!

MATTHEW

Of course you understand, Col. Howard that under the conditions of the mortgage you are not to move anything out of the house except your wearing apparel.

COLONEL

Now I didn't understand the mortgage just that way. The furniture and the silverware belong to my daughter. They were left to her by her mother.

MATTHEW

I don't care whom they belong to. They are mortgaged to me, and I'll have them or slap you in jail.

COLONEL

When you get through barkin' and snarlin' would you mind goin' away for a while and givin' me and my daughter a chance to pack our few ragged clothes?

MATTHEW

I'll go, but I'll be back in a little while to see that you don't take anything that belongs to me. (EXITS C. D.)

COLONEL

(LOOKS ABOUT THE ROOM) Good bye, my dear old, Southern home, good-bye. Matthew Martin may take you from me, he may me from your door, but he can't---no so help me god--he can't take away the memories that will always linger with me! (BOWS HEAD)

BABBY

(ENTERS R. X'S AND PUTS ARMS AROUND COLONEL) Daddy dear! Don't worry about it all, Daddy. You know, Daddy, I don't care about leaving here. We'll be happy. And I'm young and I can work for you.

COLONEL

Now don't think that I'm too old to work. There is that South Bend



place, we will move out there and fix it up a little, and it won't be long till we're as happy as two bugs in a rug.

BABBY

(PRETENDING HAPPINESS) Won't that be nice? Then there won't be any big old house to take care of or any silverware to clean--it will be one long--long picnic, and I'm happy? I---

COLONEL

(TAKES HEAD BETWEEN HIS HANDS AND LOOKS INTO HER FACE) Honey you're crying!

BABBY

No, not--not sure enough tears, Daddy. I laughed at Caroline till the tears came, because she wanted to take everything in out of the house. I must go and watch her or she will have my trunk full of valuables, and I suppose Mr. Martin will have everything searched.

COLONEL

I suppose so. Well, I'll go see what I can do. (EXITS C.)

BABBY

Poor daddy.' Oh I wish a fairy godmother would send me the money to pay off this mortgage.

CAROLINE

(ENTERS L. WITH A PILLOW SLIP FULL OF SILVERWARE AND ETC.) Honey, where is we goin'?

BABBY

We are going over to Major Burt's for a few days until we get settled, and I expect the Major will be glad to have you and to work for him, and he can afford to pay you good wages.

CAROLINE

Shut yo' mouf, gal, shut yo' mouf. What is yo' talkin' 'bout? Yo' ought to be ashamed of yotself. No wonder dat ole man in yo' Shakespeare book says dat an ungrateful chile is wusser dan a snake's tooths. Heah I done raised yo' since yo' was a little babby, an' now yo' wants to send me over to Major Burts. (FACE IN APRON CRIES) I don't care how poor yo' is. Wherever you goes I'se gwine too. If you'se gwine to live in a little old one-room babin, I'se gwine to have a little shed right on de outside, to cook and wash yo' clothes, and take care of you jes' as long as dere is breff in dis old body to move dese ole black hands.

BABBY

Aunt Caroline, you make me cry. (CRIES ON HER SHOULDER)

CAROLINE

Now, honey, don't yo' cry and make yo' nose all red an' make 'dat ole critter think how sorry yo' is 'bout leavin' here.

BABBY

All right, but Aunt Caroline, what have you got in that pillow slip?

CAROLINE

Nothin'. Nothin', but some medicine bottles.

Now be careful that you don't pick anything that don't rightfully belong to us, or Mr. Martin will have you arrested and put in jail.

CAROLINE

I jes' like to see him put me in jail. I'd bus' his ole jail down an' thow it in his face. But I aint gwine to take nothing that don' belong to us. But I jest knows dat dese knives and forks and spoons do belong to us and I'se gwine to have dem.

MATTHEW

(ENTERS OVERHEARS THE LAST OF THE SPEECH) Oh so that's what you are doing trying to get away with the stuff does not belong to you.

BABBY

Matthew Martin, that silverware belonged to mother.

MATTHEW

It belongs to me now. You think your're too good to have me for a friend and husband, now how do you like me for an enemy? Oh I know why you didn't marry me; you were in love with that cousin of yours but he wouldn't even have you, would he? No, not he, nor would any other honest man.

BABBY

Aunt Caroline, tell father to come here at once.

CAROLINE

Father de debbil I can throw him out myself if yo' wants me too.

MATTHEW

Hump! I'm glad I didn't get mixed up in such a family.

COLONEL

(ENTERS C.) Martin, I'd like to speak to you jest a minute on the outside.

MATTHEW

You can say whatever you have to say right here.

COLONEL

No, suh. What I have to say to you cain't be said in the presence of ladies. Come on outside suh.

MATTHEW

Be warned, Col. I am bigger than you.

CAROLINE

Yessa yo's de biggest jackass I ever saw.

COLONEL

Come on outside---I'm going to cut you down to my size and then whip hell out of you. (DRAGS HIM OUTSIDE? ADLIBB FIGHT OFF STAGE. COLONEL THEN SHOVS MARTIN IN ALL BEAT UP) Now here suh is your hat and coat, and there is a check for every dollar that I owe you, and there's the door. Now git yourself on the other side of it and don't ye ever cross it again.

MATTHEW

There is some trick to this. You haven't got a dollar to the world.



COLONEL

Take that around to the first national bank and you'll find out.

MATTHEW

I will, and if this check isn't good you are going to the pen.

COLONEL

All right, I'll meet you there.

HOWARD

(ENTERS C.) Hello! What's the argument?

CAROLINE

Hot dawg.' Dere you is, Massa Howard. Did yo' all git my telamagraph

HOWARD

I certainly did you old black vixen. (LAUGHS) And it cost me four dollars and eighty cents but it was worth a million.

BABBY

Caroline, did you wire Mr. Howard of our troubles? Did you ask him for money?

CAROLINE

(HALF POUNTING) Didn't 'zactly ask him--jest tole him we didn't some mighty powful bad.

HOWARD

It's all right, Babby, I was glad to help you and your father, and I'm glad that I got here with the money in time.

CAROLINE

Honest now, Massa Howard, did I ask you for dat money?

HOWARD

(LAUGHING) Why of course not. Here's the wire I'll read, and you can see if she asked me for it. Dear Massa Howard dere aint gwine to be no weddin' down heah like yo' thought they was. But we is in a heap of trouble. If Miss Babby don't marry Matthew Martin we gets throwed out of our place, and we feels powful bad about it. 'Cose we wouldn't thing of askin you for the money but if you all got any money you'd like to throw you could throw it and we might catch. Now don't think we want money but we sure as de debbil need some. We are in a terrible fix, hopin you are the same, Aunt Caroline

Caroline

See dere---I tole you I didn't ask him fo no money---no suh, dat aint my type---no suh.

BABBY

Oh, Howard, how can we ever repay you?

HOWARD

I'm afraid if I told you, you would think me as bad as Martin.

BABBY

I could never do that.

HOWARD

Then to repay me, tell me that you love me and will marry me tomorrow.

BABBY

I love you and I will marry you right now. (THEY EMBRACE)

CAROLINE

Hot dawg! Pour it on 'em, big boy!

MATTHEW

Say, I've come back and don't think that you are going to do anything with me because I've got the law right outside.

COLONEL

What for?

MATTHEW

While I was here that black servant of yours stole my watch, and I want it.

COLONEL

Matthew Martin, Aunt Caroline, has worked for me all of her life, and I trust as my own daughter, I believe you lie!

BABBY

Of course he does. Aunt Caroline, is not a pick pocket---she doesn't want your watch-

HOWARD

Matthew Martin, I think you'd better get out of here- --Caroline is an old black angel---and she doesn't stoop to steal watches.

COLONEL

Tell this man he lies, Caroline.

CAROLINE

Of course he does. I didn't take no ole watch.

COLONEL

Of course you didn't. (THEY ALL ADLIBB ABOUT CAROLINE'S HONESTY)

CAROLINE

No suh de idea of accusin' me of stealin' his old watch.

MATTHEW

Well possibly I am wrong.

CAROLINE

Of course you is. De idea of raisin' all dis trouble---besides de ole watch aint no good in de fust place. (PULLS OUT THE WATCH)

(CHASE OFF)

F I N A L E.